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played in doing this reminds us of the great feast served to the King of Spain, in which all the dishes were made of sows' ears. The translator has also not been entirely competent, for the language is sometimes involved, and un-English words are occasionally used. The book is, however, a valuable contribution to popular scientific literature.

JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.[1]—This new magazine originated in the desire of the members of the Postal Microscopical Society of the United Kingdom to utilize notes and drawings that were buried in note books. Its two hundred pages of clear type, illustrated with numerous plates, contain jottings upon subjects too numerous to mention, yet the following illustrated articles may be cited as examples: Mr. Hammond on *Tubifex rivulorum*, "the most abundant worm in Thames mud;" the Rev. E. T. Stubbs on a supposed new species of Caligus, which the writer, however, does not name; Mr. Hammond on *Stylaria paludosa* on the larva of *Tanypus maculatus ;* and on the structure and economy of Daphnia; E. Lovett's observations on the embryology of the Podophthalmata; and W. Horner's articles on the structure and habits of spiders. Although portions of the book exhibit the usual fault of microscopic work, viz., that much of it is work done for the sake of the microscope rather than to supplement the writer's observations and studies in some department of natural science, yet it contains much that is of value, especially to the zoölogist.

CROSS ON ANDERSITE FROM COLORADO.[2]—The rock in question is described by Dr. Whitman Cross as a compact, dark, almost black rock, containing a few macroscopic glassy feldspars and dark-green grains.

Microscopically it is made up of a ground mass composed of minute plagioclase crystals, pyroxene microlites and magnetite octahedrons cemented by a clear glass base, which sometimes contains light brownish globulites; all holding crystals of plagioclase, pyroxene, magnetite and apatite. The pyroxene is in small crystals and irregular grains.

Optical examination of the pyroxene crystals led Dr. Cross to regard them as belonging to two divisions, a pleachroic or orthorhombic one and a triclinic one. The former was looked upon as hypersthene and the latter as a triclinic representative of augite.

Chosen specimens of the rock were crushed, the powder treated with strong hydrofluoric acid until all the minerals except the pyroxene and magnite were dissolved; the latter was then withdrawn with a magnet. The pyroxene minerals were again treated with hydrofluoric acid until the triclinic pyroxene was almost entirely dissolved. The rhombic pyroxene was then analyzed and found to possess the composition of hypersthene. The isolation and chemical analysis of the rhombic pyroxene was performed by Mr. W. F. Hillebrand of the U. S. Geological Survey.

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[1] *Journal of the Postal Microscopical Society*, a Miscellany of Natural and Microscopical Science. Edited by ALFRED ALLEN. Vol. I. London, W. P. Collins.

[2] *American Journal of Science*, New Haven, 1883 (3), XXV, 139.

The conclusion drawn is, that a large proportion of the supposed augite is hypersthene in the andesites. The paper is an important contribution to the micro-mineralogy of andesite, and its publication in a completed form is awaited with interest. The following chemical analysis of the andesite was made by Hillebrand:

Sp. Gr.	SiO_2	Al_2O_3	Fe_2O_3	FeO	CaO	MgO	Na_2O
2.742	56.19	16.117	4.919	4.433	6.996	4.601	2.961
K_2O	MnO	P_2O_5	Cl	H_2O	Total.		
2.368	trace	0.266	0.022	1.028	99.901.		

—*M. E. W.*

Year Book of the German Malacological Society[1]—This excellent periodical has now concluded its ninth year of publication, a fact upon which malacologists may well congratulate themselves. Those only who have been personally engaged in upholding a periodical devoted to a speciality, addressed to a small audience of naturalists whose interest in their favorite study is too often counterbalanced by deficiencies of income,—they alone can realize what a successful nine years' struggle implies. The society whose organ it is, is partly an outgrowth from the Senckenbergian Museum of Frankfurt, its curators, students and friends. They began by publishing a "Nachrichtsblatt" which still flourishes in its fifteenth year, and which furnishes by its monthly or bimonthly numbers a convenient means for circulating conchological news, preliminary descriptions, obituary and business notices, proffers of exchanges, *et id omne genus.* The decay in interest and value of the much older "Malacozoölogische Blätter" originated by Dr. L. Pfeiffer, probably suggested a publication more worthy to be the organ of German Malacology. The last mentioned journal after an honorable and apparently successful career of many years, became, from causes unknown to us, irregular in its appearance (numbers being sometimes a year later in publication than their ostensible date), and degenerate in quality. It also contained little matter on any group except Pulmonates and few papers of serious importance. It continued to exist however, and recently has shown signs, under the editorial management of Clessin, of a new energy and greater usefulness. We trust that the time may not be far distant when it shall regain a position worthy of its long life and its distinguished founder. It is very possible that pecuniary troubles were at the bottom of the difficulties we have referred to.

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[1] *Jahrbuch der Deutschen Malakozoologischen Gesellschaft, 1882.* Frankfurt am Main. Edited by Dr. W. Kobelt: M. Diesterweg.